

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner states that correction of Figure 26 is required. The reference character "2603" is used in the description to designate both an electrical terminal and a layer of elastic electroconductive fabric.

It is submitted that Figure 26 is correct, and that it is amendment of the description accompanying Figure 26 that is required.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have amended the specification according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 17 is amended to relate only to a method.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7, 9-13, 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eventoff (U.S. Pat. No. 4,810,992). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Novelty of independent claims 1 and 17 over EVENTOFF US 4,810,992

The present invention as claimed in claimed 1 and 17 utilises first, second and third terminals connected to electroconductive material operatively coupled with a deformable resilient element. An electrical interface device is configured to supply electrical current through the electroconductive material via first and second terminals, to establish a voltage gradient across the electroconductive material between the first and second terminals. A third terminal is connected to the electroconductive material at an intermediate position between the first and second terminals, and the interface device is configured to receive a voltage from the third terminal.

Eventoff does not disclose or teach the arrangement of the first, second and third terminals of the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 17.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 17 are each novel over Eventoff.

The present invention as claimed in claimed 1 and 17 utilises first, second and third terminals connected to electroconductive material operatively coupled with a deformable resilient element. An electrical interface device is configured to establish a voltage gradient across the electroconductive material between first and second terminals and to receive a voltage from a third terminal at an intermediate position between the first and second terminals.

As described in Page 8, Line 11-Page 9, Line 2 and Page 10, Lines 19-22, the configuration of present invention input device provides a potential divider that appears similar to a potentiometer but has somewhat different operational characteristics. For example, a change in the magnitude of one resistance may be exhibited while the magnitude of the other resistance may be substantially maintained.

The input device is sensitive to manual operation irrespective of the absolute resistance of the overall electroconductive fabric. In this way, it is possible to obtain significantly higher levels of sensitivity and predictability such that the mechanism may be used in many control situations where known technologies, merely directed towards measuring resistance per se, would not be applicable.

Eventoff does not disclose or consider the provision of an input device having the functionality of that provided by the present invention as claimed in claimed 1 and 17.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 17 are each non-obvious over Eventoff.

Novelty and non-obviousness of dependent claims 2-16 over EVENTOFF US 4,810,992

Dependent claims 2-16 each incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 1 by reference.

It is therefore submitted that claims 2-16 are each novel and non-obvious over Eventoff.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff (U.S. Pat. No. 4,810,992) in view of Lizasoain, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,398,233). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lizasoain discloses an electrical conductor of fibres embedded in an insulator. Lizasoain does not teach the arrangement of the first, second and third terminals of the present invention as claimed in claim 1. It is therefore considered that claims 3 and 4 are also each patentable over Eventoff in view of Lizasoain.

Claims 5-6, 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff (U.S. Pat. No. 4,810,992) in view of Gibson, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,873). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gibson discloses a fabric touch sensor and method of manufacture. Gibson does not teach the arrangement of the first, second and third terminals of the present invention as claimed in claim 1. It is therefore considered that claims 5, 6, 8 and 14 are also each patentable over Eventoff in view of Gibson.

Claims 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff (U.S. Pat. No. 4,810,992) in view of Asher, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,285). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

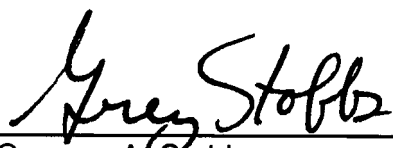
Asher discloses a joystick with membrane sensor. Asher does not teach the arrangement of the first, second and third terminals of the present invention as claimed in claim 1. It is therefore considered that claim 15 is also patentable over Eventoff in view of Asher.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 18, 2007

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